

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A side guard for use with a belt module,  
comprising:

a central post;

5 a first wing extending from the central post in a  
first direction;

a second wing extending from the central post in a  
second direction opposite from the first direction, the  
second wing offset laterally from the first wing; and,

10 a projection disposed on the first post.

2. The side guard of Claim 1, wherein the first wing  
and the second wing are offset laterally with respect to  
a longitudinal axis defined through the center of the  
15 central post.

3. The side guard of Claim 1, wherein a front surface  
of the central post is coplanar with the second wing.

20 4. The side guard of Claim 1, wherein the central post  
has at least one side wall that is beveled inward.

5. The side guard of Claim 1, wherein the projection  
is comprised of a plurality of planar surfaces.

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6. The side guard of Claim 5, wherein at least one of  
the planar surfaces is substantially perpendicular to

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the central post.

7. The side guard of Claim 5, wherein at least one of the planar surfaces is substantially parallel to the central post.

8. A modular belt system, comprising:

a plurality of belt modules having a product conveying surface and an opening disposed substantially perpendicular to the product conveying surface, the module having a recessed portion defined therein adjacent to the opening such that a ledge is formed adjacent to the opening; and,

a side guard having a central post with a projection disposed thereon, the central post capable of sliding into the opening such that the projection engages with the recessed portion in the belt module.

9. The modular belt system of Claim 8, wherein the central post has a back wall that is beveled inward and disposed opposite from the projection.

10. The modular belt system of Claim 8, wherein the plurality of belt modules comprises an intermediate section having a sinusoidal shape and a plurality of link ends extending from the intermediate section in opposite directions such that one of the plurality of

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belt modules is capable of being intercalated with an adjacent belt module by a pivot rod, the adjacent belt modules forming a radius belt capable of collapsing around a curved conveying path.

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11. The modular belt system of Claim 8, wherein the side guard has a first wing extending from the central post in a first direction.

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12. The modular belt system of Claim 11, wherein the side guard has a second wing extending from the central post in a second direction opposite the first direction.

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13. The modular belt system of Claim 12, wherein the first wing and the second wing are offset laterally with respect to a longitudinal axis defined through the center of the central post.

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14. The modular belt system of Claim 8, wherein a front surface of the central post is coplanar with the second wing.

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15. A modular belt system, comprising:  
a belt module;  
a side guard having a central post, a first wing extending from the central post in a first direction, and a second wing extending from the central post in a

means for removably attaching the central post to the belt module.

17. A method of forming a snap-on side guard for a radius belt, comprising:

20 providing a plurality of belt modules having a  
product conveying surface and an opening disposed  
substantially perpendicular to the product conveying  
surface, the modules having a recessed portion defined  
therein adjacent to the opening such that a ledge is  
25 formed adjacent to the opening; and,

inserting the central post of the side guard into the opening in one of the belt modules such that the

side guard snaps into position via engagement of the projection with the recessed portion.

18. The method of Claim 17, wherein the second wing is  
5 offset laterally from the first wing.

19. The method of Claim 17, wherein the central post has at least one side wall that is beveled inward.

10 20. The method of Claim 17, wherein the plurality of belt modules comprises an intermediate section having a sinusoidal shape and a plurality of link ends extending from the intermediate section in opposite directions such that one of the plurality of belt modules is  
15 capable of being intercalated with an adjacent belt module by a pivot rod, the adjacent belt modules forming a radius belt capable of collapsing around a curved conveying path.

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